



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ADAM NEYLON



15TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

DATE: April 15, 2025

FROM: State Representative Adam Neylon

TO: Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Support AB 10

Chairman O'Connor and the members of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means.

I'm Representative Adam Neylon from Waukesha County and I'm here to testify in support of Assembly Bill 10.

According to the CDC, unintentional injury is the top cause of death among children and adolescents, with firearms being a leading injury method. Unsecured firearms are an important factor in this equation.

This legislation is very simple. It creates a state sales and use tax exemption for the sale of firearm storage devices and firearm safety devices in Wisconsin. The original intent of the bill was restricted to gun safes, but after discussions with constituents and other stakeholders, it was decided to expand the scope to include a variety of firearm safety devices. The substitute amendment to AB 10, which I authored, outlines this expansion and includes the definition of "firearm safety device" and "firearm storage device."

This bill promotes gun safety. By incentivizing the purchase of firearm storage and safety devices, we are encouraging gun owners to store their guns safely. The more guns that are stored safely and securely, the better off our children, and anyone else for that matter, will be from accidental injury, death and suicide.

Thank you for your time. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Gun d



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

Testimony on Assembly Bill 10

Thank you, committee members, for hearing Assembly Bill 10 today. This bill will exempt any gun safe sold in Wisconsin from the sales tax.

As a former law enforcement officer, I understand first hand how important gun safety is. One of the first things you learn in the academy is how to handle a firearm, to keep you, and everyone around you safe. Similarly, anyone that wants to get a hunting license in Wisconsin must complete a safety education class.

As most of us understand in this country, the United States Constitution generally guarantees citizens the right to bear arms. The government can put some restrictions on gun ownership, for example, to purchase a firearm you must pass a background check, and you cannot be a convicted felon. The government can also limit certain places that you can carry a firearm. However, once you've legally purchased your firearm and you are in the privacy of your home, government regulations stop.

The government cannot legislate how someone takes care of their firearm in their own home, and, as I always say, you cannot legislate common sense. However, the government can incentivize making smart decisions.

One way we can incentivize safely storing your firearms is by exempting gun safes from taxes. This could save at least \$5.50 on a small \$100 handgun safe or \$110 on a larger long gun safe.

This won't eliminate all accidental gun deaths and injuries or keep guns out of the hands of individuals that shouldn't be possessing them. But this is something that the government can do to incentivize responsible gun ownership and gun safety, and ultimately this has the potential to save lives.

This is a smart bipartisan bill that has the support of numerous groups of all political persuasions and I hope it will have your support too.

Serving Racine and Kenosha Counties - Senate District 21

State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 • (608) 266-1832 • Toll-free (866) 615-7510
E-Mail: Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wi.gov • SenatorWanggaard.com

April 15, 2025

As a representative of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Physicians, I am here to speak in support of Assembly Bill 10, which creates a sales and use tax exemption for the sale of gun safes.

I am an internal medicine physician specializing in the primary care of adults. The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 154,000 internal medicine physicians who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. ACP is a leader among medical professional societies advocating for gun safety and reform.

I talk about safety with all of my patients, from seatbelts to preventing falls to safe use of medications. As a doctor who cares for many patients who own firearms, I know that my patients expect me to speak up for firearm safety. Firearm access triples the risk of suicide for firearm owners and their families. Over half of suicides in Wisconsin and nationwide are due to firearms. Unfortunately, suicide by firearm is often impulsive and is uncommonly lethal up to 90% of the time. As a doctor caring mainly for older adults, I know that effective treatment for depression and other risks for suicidal thinking is effective when there is time to intervene.

Sadly, firearms are now the leading cause of death for children in Wisconsin and nationwide. Safe storage is an effective strategy to save young lives. One study showed that household using safe storage of firearms and ammunition led to an 85% reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens.

By creating a sales tax exemption for gun safes and locks, we provide an opportunity to support businesses that want to encourage safe storage and make it easier for firearm owners to take this vital step in responsible firearm ownership.

Thank you for your support of this important bill to safeguard the lives of people of all ages in Wisconsin.

Sophie Kramer, M.D.
Chair, Health and Public Policy Committee
Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Physicians



Wisconsin
Chapter

April 15, 2025

Wisconsin State Legislature
Committee on Ways and Means
Wisconsin State Capitol
2 East Main Street
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature Committee on Ways and Means,
As a coalition of healthcare professionals across Wisconsin, we write in strong support of Assembly Bill 10, relating to a sales and use tax exemption for the purchase of gun safes and firearm safety devices.

As healthcare workers, every day, we see firsthand the devastating consequences of unsecured firearms—tragic accidents involving children, preventable suicides, and gun-related injuries that leave lifelong impacts on individuals and families. **Firearms are the leading cause of death for Wisconsin children.**

Secure storage is one of the most effective ways to prevent these outcomes. By removing the sales tax on gun safes, the state can take a meaningful step toward promoting safe gun ownership, incentivizing secure storage, and protecting public health.

The fiscal impact of such a policy is modest and well justified. Gun Violence costs Wisconsin **over \$8 billion dollars annually**. When we account for the direct medical costs, mental health and rehabilitation services, lost productivity and potential earnings, and criminal justice and police services a single fatal firearm injury is estimated to cost taxpayers over \$250,000 dollars. AB10 is a cost-effective investment. It aligns with evidence-based prevention strategies and supports the health and safety of our communities.

To address firearm injuries in our state, we must take a multifaceted public health approach. Just as we advocate for seat belts, smoke detectors, and childproof medicine containers, we also support policies that prevent firearm injuries in Wisconsinites. Making gun safes more accessible through a tax exemption is a practical and responsible step forward.

We urge you to pass Assembly Bill 10 and demonstrate Wisconsin's leadership in both fiscal responsibility and public safety.

Sincerely,
Wisconsin Gun Violence Prevention Coalition, Health Care Committee

Address Correspondence to:
Dr. Kellie C. Snooks, Committee Co- Chair
kellie.snooks@gmail.com, (708) 606-9783

Individuals:

Kellie C. Snooks, DO, MPH
Pediatric Critical Care Physician
Milwaukee

Daiva Parakininkas, MD
Physician, Pediatric Critical Care &
Pulmonology
Wauwatosa

Kevin Rorabek, RN
Pediatric Nurse Clinician
Milwaukee

Melissa Stiles, MD
Madison

Mara Terras, MD
Internal Medicine Primary Care Physician
Middleton

Ann McCullough, MA
Community Safety Program Manager
Milwaukee, WI

Jennifer Zaspel, MD
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry &
Adult Psychiatry
Milwaukee, WI

Ashley Bolin, MD
Pediatrician
Milwaukee

Rebecca Bertrandt, MD
Pediatric Critical Care Physician
Milwaukee

Nan Peterson, RN, MS
Madison

Paul Neary, MD
Physician

Organizations:

American College of Physicians WI Chapter



To: Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
From: Lacy Fox, Government Affairs Director, Dane County
Date: April 15, 2025
RE: 2025 Assembly Bill 10 | relating to: a sales and use tax exemption for the sale of gun safes

Thank you, Chairman O'Connor and members of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, for holding a public hearing on Assembly Bill 10, relating to a sales and use tax exemption for the sale of gun safes.

Dane County supports Assembly Bill 10 and its corresponding substitute amendment in order to reduce accidental deaths, suicides, and unintentional gun discharges by incentivizing and making safe storage more affordable. Not only can ensuring the secure storage of firearms decrease gun-related deaths and injuries but it is also a critical tool in reducing gun violence overall by helping to prevent gun thefts.

As noted in a recent resolution passed by the Dane County Board of Supervisors, one out of every two adults reports being affected by gun violence in Dane County—either directly or through a family member. When these tragedies occur all of those involved are impacted by the lasting trauma.

Importantly, Assembly Bill 10 will help protect Wisconsin's children by helping to prevent the unintentional firing of a firearm. Children ranging from toddlers to teenagers become victims of such incidents and while no one piece of legislation will prevent all firearm deaths and injuries, we know limiting access to guns can save lives. We hope this bill will be one part of the solution to creating safer communities across the state and look forward to additional conversations about how to prevent gun-related injury and death.

Thank you again for holding this important public hearing on Assembly Bill 10.

April 15, 2025

Wisconsin State Legislature
Committee on Ways and Means
Wisconsin State Capitol
2 East Main Street
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Testimony in Support of AB 10 – sales and use tax exemption for the sale of gun safes

To Members of the Committee,

My name is Nick Matuszewski, and I serve as the Associate Executive Director of WAVE Educational Fund and lead the Wisconsin Gun Violence Prevention Coalition.

I'm writing today in strong support of AB 10, a bill that would exempt gun safes and other firearm locking devices from Wisconsin's sales tax. This is a commonsense proposal that encourages responsible gun ownership and promotes public safety — especially for our kids.

We know that secure storage of firearms significantly reduces the risk of unintentional shootings, youth suicides, and gun theft. Yet, millions of children in the U.S. live in homes with loaded, unsecured guns, and the vast majority of gun-owning households with children do not store their firearms locked and unloaded. Tragically, guns are now the leading cause of death for children and teens in Wisconsin.

When guns are not stored securely, they are also more likely to be stolen and later used in violent crimes. Roughly 380,000 firearms are stolen each year in the U.S., and unsecured guns are a major contributor to that problem.

AB 10 won't solve every aspect of gun violence, but it is a meaningful step, one that has bipartisan support and puts the emphasis where it should be: on prevention. While the bill may result in a modest reduction in tax revenue, the cost of doing nothing is far greater. According to Everytown, gun violence costs Wisconsin more than \$8 billion annually in health care, law enforcement, lost productivity, and other expenses.

By reducing the cost of Secure storage devices, AB 10 helps ensure that every Wisconsin gun owner—regardless of income—has the ability to securely store their firearms. This bill removes a financial barrier that too often prevents families from taking basic safety precautions. It's a simple but meaningful step that can protect children, reduce harm, and promote responsible gun ownership across our state.

Thank you for considering this testimony and for your attention to this life-saving policy.

Sincerely,
Nick Matuszewski

